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Mattawan police officer killed in line of duty remembered during 20th anniversary memorial service

Village of Mattawan Police Officer Scot Beyerstedt, who was killed in the line of duty on July 26, 2005, was remembered during a 20th anniversary memorial service, Saturday, July 26, at Mattawan Memorial Park. On the evening of July 25, 2005, Officer Beyerstedt, 21, was critically injured in a crash during a police pursuit of a wanted felon. He was rushed from the scene to a Kalamazoo hospital, where he died from his injuries the following day.

Photos courtesy/ Mattawan Police Department

LAWRENCE - The Lawrence Township Fire Department will hold a Centennial Celebration, Saturday, Aug. 9, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Lawrence Township Fire Station, 205 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence.

The event will feature fire truck demos, food trucks, games, raffles, music and family fun.

New recycling barn added to Antwerp Township Transfer Station

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP – The Antwerp Township Transfer Station recently saw the completion of a Recycling Barn last fall that has improved the Township's recycling efforts, according to the Antwerp Township supervisor.

Daniel Ruzick said the township received a recycling grant from the State of Michigan for recycling. General funds and ARPA funds were used in construction, fencing and cameras.

Located at 28251 64th Ave., the transfer site served for many years as the old township dump site.

The Recycling Barn is open on the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Electronics that are accepted to be recycled by the Township include computers, VCRs, mobile devices, household batteries, laptops, cable boxes, CRT monitors, servers, routers, network equipment, DVD players and tablets.

All items must be out of the boxes, according to Ruzick, and no items may be left at the door.

Ruzick said styro-foam is also accepted to be recycled and must snap to accept. Large pieces of styro-foam must be broken down. The transfer station will not take bagged foam, loose packing foam or flexible foam.

As of July 15, the Transfer Station began using mechanical gates to enter the Recycling station and is offered to Antwerp Township residents only.

Ruzick said Antwerp Township is currently in discussions with surrounding townships, Texas, Porter and Almena, to use the facility.

The recycling center will accept newspapers in paper bags only, clean metal cans, glass and plastic, which can be co-mingled, and clean cardboard, which must be broken down.

"If the cameras show that individuals are mixing bags in with metal cans, glass, plastic, in plastic bags, that individual's privileges will be revoked. Also not breaking down cardboard boxes or placing garbage in dumpsters will result in lost privileges.

Antwerp Township residents can obtain a key fob at the Antwerp Township Office during business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The key fob will require a $25 deposit and if lost, a $25 charge to replace.

Antwerp Township, contracted with Best-Way Disposal, also offers pay as you go for garbage, mattresses, drywall and furniture.

For a full price, visit: antwerptownshipmi.gov

Antwerp Township Transfer Station hours are Tuesday and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.April 1 through Oct. 31; Winter hours, Nov. 1 through March 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Kiwanis Club hears update on Palisades reopening

By James Windell

The Palisades Nuclear Power Plant is on target to start up again this fall. In so doing it will be the first nuclear power plant that ceased operating in the U.S. ever to reopen.

That was the good news that South Haven Kiwanis Club members heard at their lunch meeting on Monday, August 4, 2025. Making the presentation were two spokesmen for Holtec International – Senior Manager for Governmental Affairs, Nick Culp and Community Affairs spokesperson Mick Middaugh.

Culp and Middaugh told the Kiwanis Club that Palisades, located in Covert Township, is on track to start up as early as October of this year. They said that on July 24, 2025, the National Regulatory Commission (NRS) approved Holtec's licensing package to reauthorize power operations at Palisades. "Palisades is now authorized to receive new fuel, operate under NRC technical specifications, and place electricity on the grid," Culp said. "Palisades is on track to complete the full regulatory transition by later this month."

Going over the history of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, Middaugh reminded the audience that the plant originally opened in 1971 but was shut down in 2022. Holtec International, a global company that is

Mick Middaugh

Nick Culp

a supplier of equipment and services for the energy industry, bought the facility from its previous owner, Entergy, in 2022. Initially, Holtec planned to decommission the plant, but many influential figures, including Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, backed an effort to reopen Palisades.

In 2022, Whitmer signed bills targeting a 100% clean energy goal in Michigan by 2040. Nuclear energy is one of the clean sources mentioned in the legislation. The plant is anticipated to reduce carbon emissions by nearly 4.5 million tons annually, according to the Department of Energy.

During his talk to the Kiwanis Club, Culp told the group that Palisades is currently providing 600 full-time jobs plus employing more than 1,000 contract individuals. It was noted that taxes that come from Palisades help support vital public infrastructure as well as local schools.

Addressing some of the concerns about safety, Culp and Middaugh pointed out that Palisades ranks in the NRC's highest safety category and that the plant adheres to all federal and state environment and safety requirements. "Our number one job is to ensure plant safety," Middaugh said.

The NRC issued a notice in July, 2025 that it planned to issue a "no significant hazards consideration determination" and approve the operating license and technical specifications to support the restart of power options at Palisades. This means Holtec can begin loading fuel, although there are still some licensing actions under NRC review and additional requirements that need to be met before the plant can actually start up.

When asked about how the South Haven community could help make sure Palisades is successful, Culp said that the community has already done its part. "The restart process could not have been started if there wasn't strong support here in South Haven," Culp said. "We were fortunate that the key elements were already there when we came in here."

He added that it's a two-way street. "Not only does the community have to be there for us, but we have to be there for them," he said. "That is why we have open houses and public meetings. We're going to keep that going. That's part of why we have good relationships locally."

South Haven Economic Development consultant to revise strategic economic plan

By James Windell

Jim Hettinger said at the outset that he intended the two-hour session to be an idea-generating meeting.

The Strategic Economic Development Plan Revision session, held on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, in the City Hall Council Chambers, may have been short on new ideas for South Haven, but clearly laid out the strengths and weaknesses of the City of South Haven.

Attended by a small, but influential segment of South Haven area residents, the meeting, led by economic development consultant Jim Hettinger, was the first of two scheduled meetings that will, Hettinger hopes, result in a strategic economic development plan for the City for the next five years.

Hettinger noted in the beginning of the meeting that the crux of the matter is to determine how growth can be generated in South Haven. In the ensuing presentation, Hettinger spelled out the city's strengths which he said are:

- Lake Michigan
- The trails community
- A maritime community
- Proximity to major markets
- Proximity to major educational institutions
- Proximity to excellent private colleges
- A healthy downtown.
- But he pointed out that South Haven has weaknesses as well. Some of the significant weaknesses include:
- The high cost of living in the City
- Weakness in local housing opportunities
- Overreliance on summer tourism
- Small business activity is better, but still lags
- Lack of parcels of land available for development
- Lack of workforce housing
- Perception of public schools may not be positive.

Hettinger brings to South Haven more than 34 years of experience in assisting communities with community and economic development opportunities. He served as the President of Battle Creek Unlimited, a private, nonprofit corporation that has helped people and businesses find ways to create economic opportunity in Southwest Michigan, from 1979 to 2009. Currently, Hettinger is a consultant to economic development programs across the country. He also sits on the editorial board of a scholarly economic development journal (Economic Development Quarterly: The Journal of Economic Revitalization), keeping him in touch with the latest research findings.

Following his presentation, Hettinger opened the session up for discussion amid calling for new ideas. One theme in the discussion was the recognition of the importance of the reopening of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant.

"I thought the sincerity and passion exhibited by the participants toward the recommissioning of the Palisades Plant was most impressive," Hettinger said after the meeting. "The participants noted this was the first recommissioning of a closed nuclear facility in the nation and we needed to do everything we could to assure success. Participants also saw and appreciated the extreme economic value the reopened facility would restore to the area."

It was also noted in the session that taxes and employment are key to a revised strategic economic plan revision. "Since employment and the tax base are foundational pursuits of economic development," Hettinger said, "what can we do to assist employers in growing employment and tax base? What in the eyes of the employer are impediments to their success and perforce, our success in growing jobs and tax base?"

Hettinger went on to say following the meeting that he would expect "issues like housing, transportation, workforce, and public services to boil to the surface" in the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. "We will make a special effort to get employers/business owners to attend and gear our questions toward their concerns," Hettinger said. "Of course, the public is welcome, but we want to focus on employer perceptions of how the area can be a better location for our employers, but I expect some of that will cover housing and workforce issues."

James Hettinger

The public is invited to attend the second "Listen and Input" meeting in the City Hall's Council Chambers, 539 Phoenix Street, South Haven on Tuesday, August 26 at 5:00 pm.

Casco fire damages barn

SHAES responded to a report of a barn fire at a Casco township property, 68th Street south of 109th Avenue, at 5:02 p.m. on Saturday.

Upon arrival firefighters found a lawn tractor on fire inside the barn. The fire had spread to bales of hay stored in the barn and was threatening the structure.

The fire was quickly extinguished with minimal damage to the structure. Ganges FD was on standby.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

VBISD unveils new outdoor experience - The Story Stroll

LAWRENCE - The Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) recently unveiled its newest outdoor experience, the Story Stroll, a magical, family-friendly literacy walk located on the Brush Nature Trail behind the Green House in Lawrence. This unique activity blends the joy of reading with the beauty of nature, offering families a chance to connect, move, and learn together.

Designed especially for children 12 and under, the Story Stroll features 20 story stations spread along a peaceful wooded trail. Each station displays a page from a children's book, encouraging families to read together as they walk. The experience takes about 15 to 30 minutes to complete and includes interactive prompts along the way to spark imagination, discussion, and movement. And while it's geared toward young readers, visitors of all ages will find something to enjoy.

To support the diverse community, each story is presented in both English and Spanish. Featured books will rotate throughout the year, giving families a reason to return for new adventures. The project is entirely free and open to the public, thanks to a generous grant from the Van Buren Great Start Collaborative, awarded to the Van Buren District Library and VBISD Project SHINE.

The trail is accessible by driving to the Bert Goens Learning Center and following the road to the back of the campus. There, tucked away beside the VBISD Green House, the Brush Creek Nature Trail offers a quiet, shaded space perfect for reading and exploration. While parking is limited near the trail entrance, visitors are welcome to park nearby or walk in from the main lot.

Bringing this project to life was a true community effort. VBISD extends heartfelt thanks to Elissa Zimmer from the Van Buren District Library, the Project SHINE team, Bobby Anderson's Polymer Technology students, Austin Kelly's Construction Trades students, and Sean Baker from the VBISD Maintenance Team. Their collaboration, creativity, and hard work helped transform the idea into a lasting resource for families in the region.

VBISD believes in the power of literacy and the importance of outdoor learning experiences that support the whole child. The Story Stroll is a perfect example of how reading, nature, and family time can come together in a meaningful, memorable way.

Sheriff's Dept responds to several incidents

National Night Out was held Aug. 5, at 546 Phoenix St., South Haven, from 5 to 7 p.m. Staff from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, South Haven Police Department (SHPD), SHEAS, Safe Kids of Greater South Haven, and others, took part in the event.

Uniform Response handed a UDAA in Columbia Township. The suspect went to a residence to ask if a particular vehicle was for sale. After the owner told him no, however, the suspect jumped in it and drove away. The vehicle was located in the area by Sheriff deputies along with the suspect. The suspect was transported to the Van Buren County Jail, Paw Paw, for the incident.

Uniform Response handled an MDOP (malicious destruction of property) in Decatur Township. While investigating the incident, it was found that the suspect had warrants out of Kalamazoo County and Wexford County. The suspect was arrested on the warrants and has pending charges for the MDOP.

Uniform Response handled a RAW (runaway) of an 11-year-old in Paw Paw Township. The juvenile was later located in the Village by his family while law enforcement and others were searching the area as well.

Uniform Response handled an ATV Crash in Porter Township. The investigation showed an out of county resident was at his lake house when he took his ATV out driving around with a passenger. The driver lost control of it and overturned. The passenger was treated and released at the scene, but the driver sustained serious injuries and was transported to a local hospital. The driver/suspect was not wearing a seatbelt. Alcohol is believed to be a factor. Once the investigation is complete, the driver will be facing OWI (operating while intoxicated) third offense.

Uniform Response went to a Residence in Bloomingdale for a Warrant Pickup. The suspect tried to run from the residence from the Deputies, but she was quickly run down. Another individual at the residence was also wanted on warrants. Both were lodged.

Uniform Response had a Flee and Elude in Lawrence Township. Paw Paw Police Department was working a motorcycle vs. pedestrian accident in which the motorcyclist fled the scene with numerous other motorcycles. A Deputy on patrol located what was believed to be some of the ones leaving the scene and attempted to stop them. The motorcycles split up and the Deputy was able to get one stopped after a short pursuit. A handgun and brass knuckles were located. The suspect was lodged for the incident. It was believed that one of the ones that fled was the motorcycle involved. The case is being worked on that end by PPPD.

Detectives from Our Office assisted Mattawan PD with a Found Body. It was confirmed that the body found was from a complaint our office originally handled weeks back. No foul play was found and there is no danger to the public. MSP Detectives also assisted at the scene.

Uniform Response handled a Minor PIA(Personal Injury Accident) in Bloomingdale Township. The driver went off the roadway hitting some mailboxes prior to overturning in a wooded area. The driver had her 11-month-old in the vehicle at the time of the incident. The driver was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and operating while intoxicated with occupants in the vehicle under 16-years-old. The baby was turned over to family members.

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Al-Van Humane Society holds annual blueberry bark-b-que

By James Windell

It's time for the National Blueberry Festival and that means that on Friday, August 8 Al-Van Humane Society holds their Blueberry Bark-B-Que.

Held at the Huron Pavilion starting at 4:00 pm, the Al-Van Humane Society will host a dinner for the public.

"We're very excited to be holding our annual event on Friday during the Blueberry Festival," says Jordan Freeburn, Marketing and Development Coordinator for Al-Van Humane Society. "It's a great way to support the shelter, but you get a pulled pork sandwich or a vegetarian burger, plus baked beans, chips, ice cream and a beverage. And this year we have LaSoulful Rock performing as well."

One of the major fundraisers for Al-Van Humane Society, the event will help support the mission of the program which is to compassionately serve the companion animals in our community by providing the best shelter, adoptive homes, education, and resources available.

"Everything is donated," adds Freeburn, "so one hundred percent of the proceeds go directly to our program."

Freeburn says that the Blueberry Bark-B-Que starts at 4:00 pm on August 8 and goes until the food runs out. However, she cautions that last year the food ran out around 8:00 pm.

The Bark-B-Que takes place at the Huron Street Pavilion, 546 Phoenix Street, in downtown South Haven. For more information, visit the Al-Van Humane Society website at https://www.al-van.org/events-1/blueberry-bark-b-q-2

Lawrence Township Fire Department to mark centennial celebration

LAWRENCE - The Lawrence Township Fire Department will hold a Centennial Celebration, Saturday, Aug. 9, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Lawrence Township Fire Station, 205 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence.

The event will feature fire truck demos, food trucks, games, raffles, music and family fun.

Filbrandt's presidential duties take precedence over competitions

By James Windell

As President of the American Association of Meat Processors (AAMP), Scott Filbrandt had his hands full at the AAMP Convention in Kansas City recently.

In fact, he was so busy giving speeches, making sure the convention was going well, and running a workshop on how to smoke fish, he didn't have time to enter any of Bob's Processing's products in the competition at this year's convention.

But, not to worry. Bob's Processing, the outstanding local butcher shop, won four gold medals earlier this year along with one silver medal. Winning medals and ribbons for their meat and fish products is something Scott Filbrandt, his family and staff have become accustomed to. Over the past 35 years, the family-owned business started by Bob Filbrandt has won over 100 Blue Ribbons and four Best in Show Awards along with dozens of gold and silver medals. In May, 2025, Bob's Meats won Gold Medals in Germany for Smoked Salmon, Bacon, Smoked Mettwurst, and Braunsweiger, as well as a Silver medal for their Ham.

In a recent interview after his return from the AAMP Convention in Kansas City, Filbrandt said he didn't enter any of their products in the competitions because "I was just going to be too busy." As President of AAMP, he conceded that he just didn't have the time to deal with the competitions.

"I attended five different state conventions," Filbrandt said in discussing his duties as president. "I judged this year's meat shows, I taught a seminar on how to smoke fish, and I had to speak at the opening session of the national convention."

When he wasn't busy giving speeches and conducting seminars, he was making sure the vendors in the 363 booths at the convention were comfortable. "I walked around the floor and made sure everything was going alright for the vendors and suppliers," he said.

Back home after the national convention, Filbrandt said he was busy trying to keep up with their meat processing business. "We do a lot of private labelling for farmers and other meat suppliers," he said. "We process the meat and label it under their name for businesses that stretch from this area to Lansing and Detroit."

All of the prize-winning meats and fish are available daily in Bob's Processing, 70705 16th Ave., South Haven. The shop is open from Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturdays from 8:00 am to noon. For more information, visit their website at //www.bobsmeat.com

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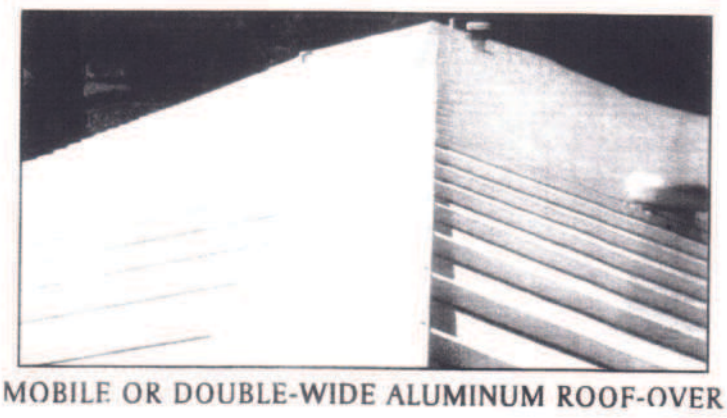

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Piano-Wind Chamber Music Trio presents performance on August 15

SOUTH HAVEN -- The South Haven Performance Series will present The Poulenc Trio in concert on Friday, August 15, at the First United Methodist Church, 429 Michigan Ave. beginning at 7 p.m.

The Poulenc Trio is the most active touring piano-wind chamber music ensemble in the world. Having recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, the trio has performed in 46 U.S. states and at music festivals around the world, including the Ravello Festival in Italy, the San Miguel de Allende Festival in Mexico, and the Newport Music Festival.

The New York Times praised the trio for its “elegant rendition” of Piazzolla’s Tangos. The Washington Post said the trio “does its namesake proud” in “an intriguing and beautifully played program” with “convincing elegance, near effortless lightness and grace.” A performance in Florida–for which the Palm Beach Post praised the group’s “polished loveliness” and the Palm Beach Daily News said the “potent combination” of oboe, bassoon and piano had “captured the magic of chamber music”—was rebroadcast on American Public Media’s nationally syndicated radio program, Performance Today. The trio has garnered positive attention in full-length profiles in Chamber Music magazine and the Double Reed Journal. The group has been called “virtuosos of classical and contemporary chamber music” in one profile for Russian television.

The Poulenc Trio has a strong commitment to commissioning, performing and recording new works from living composers. Since its founding, the trio has greatly expanded the repertoire available for the oboe, bassoon and piano, with no fewer than 22 new works written for and premiered by the group, including three triple concertos for the trio and full orchestra. They premiered two works with the renowned violinist Hilary Hahn.

The Poulenc Trio launched a pioneering concert series called Music at the Museum, in which musical performances are paired with museum exhibitions, with special appearances from guest artists and curators. As part of the series, the trio has collaborated with the National Gallery in Washington DC, the Walters Art Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Hermitage State Museum in Russia.

The trio is deeply engaged in musical and educational outreach programs, including “Pizza and Poulenc,” an informal performance and residency series for younger audiences. The trio regularly conducts masterclasses, including at the University of Ohio, San Francisco State University, Florida State University and the University of Colima in Mexico.

Founded in 2010, the South Haven Performance Series is an all-volunteer community-based organization committed to providing a rich mixture of musical arts for area residents and visitors. Most concerts are held during the summer months with an additional holiday concert presented in December.

Performances are provided thanks to the generous support of the South Haven Community Foundation, corporate sponsors, and individual donors. A modest $15 admission fee is charged for the summer concerts while the holiday concert is presented free of charge as a gift to the community. Students are always admitted free. Tickets are sold on the evening of the concert.

South Haven Store receives $25,000 grant from MEDC

By James Windell

A South Haven business received a $25,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for improvements to their property.

Nature’s Country Cupboard, 509 Phoenix Street, in downtown South Haven, was one of several Michigan businesses to be awarded a Match on Main program grant. Match on Main grants are aimed at helping to invigorate downtowns around the state. The MEDC says the Match on Main program serves as a tool to support new or expanding businesses by providing up to $25,000 in funding for them to launch or grow in core downtown areas.

Stephanie Nowak-Tippy, who runs Bloom Wellness and therapeutic Massage inside Nature’s Country Cupboard, says that South Haven’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was instrumental in helping her apply for the grant. “We worked closely with Suzanne Brock at DDA and she was very helpful,” Nowak-Tippy said while standing in her newly renovated massage room.

Nowak-Tippy indicates that her family has run Nature’s Country Cupboard, a specialty and health food store, at their present location for 35 years. However, they had storerooms they wanted to convert to massage and treatment rooms. The grant was used to re-store the wood floor, build a treatment room, add an ADA-accessible bathroom and purchase an ADA-accessible massage table.

“We started out as a health food store,” Nowak-Tippy, who is a Certified Nutritional Consultant and a Board Certified Health Coach, says, “now we are going back to our roots.” Along with offering massage, they plan to offer acupuncture soon.

She emphasized that they are very grateful for the grant. “It makes it possible for us to offer more wellness for the community,” she says.

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VIEWPOINT

Why You Matter More Than You Think

In a world that often feels chaotic and overwhelming, where headlines are filled with division, disaster, and doubt, it's easy to wonder: What difference can one person really make?

The truth? More than you could ever imagine.

We are taught to look up—to celebrities, politicians, tech giants—for answers and action. But real change rarely begins at the top. It begins at the grassroots, in neighborhoods, families, classrooms, and quiet moments. It begins with someone like you.

It's the teacher who stays after hours to help a struggling student believe in themselves. The neighbor who mows an elderly woman's lawn without asking for thanks. The small-town business owner who donates to a food pantry in a tight economy. These acts don't make the news—but they make a difference. A real, lasting one.

History has taught us that ordinary individuals make a difference. I harken back to Abraham Lincoln, who was a failed businessman and lost several elections before being elected to the U.S. Senate. He never gave up and because of his personal fortitude slavery was outlawed.

In modern times a single individual Elon Musk has followed in the footsteps of Henry Ford in changing the automobile industry in the world. But he didn't stop there. His Space X has revolutionized the space industry. All because he had a dream, and wouldn't give up until it became reality.

We underestimate the power of everyday actions because they don't always bring instant results or applause. But the effects are cumulative. Kindness inspires more kindness. Courage strengthens those around us. A single voice can shift a room, a single vote can decide a future, and a single decision to do the right thing—even when no one is watching—can ripple through lives in ways we'll never fully know.

I always here people say their vote won't make a difference, however I can't tell you how many elections have been decided by a single vote. Heck, we have had presidential elections decided by 30,000 votes. We can make a difference by simply getting out of our rocking chair and going to the polls.

You don't have to be perfect to make a difference. You just have to be present. Be willing. Be consistent. Whether you're standing up for someone who's being mistreated, starting a community garden, or simply reaching out to a friend who's hurting, your action matters. Deeply.

And here's the beautiful truth: You don't have to see the end result for it to be worth it. Just like you plant seeds in spring not knowing exactly how the harvest will look, your small, good choices sow something meaningful—something enduring.

The cynics will laugh. They'll say it's too little, too late. But history has always favored the hopeful, the humble, and the brave. Every great movement began with someone saying "This isn't right. I can't fix everything, but I can do something."

So do something.

Speak up. Show up. Reach out. Forgive. Volunteer. Vote. Mentor. Create. Start. Keep going even when it's hard, even when no one claps, even when progress seems slow. Because that's what real leaders do. And make no mistake: leadership is not a title, it's a decision. A decision to care enough to act.

In the end, we don't remember people by the grand words they said, but by how they made us feel. By what they did when it counted. By how they showed up in moments that mattered. Personally I've always said "words don't matter but actions do." In other words don't bullshit me with your eloquent prose, show me by what you accomplish.

And you, yes you, have the same opportunity every single day.

You are not small.

You are not invisible.

You are not powerless.

You are one. And sometimes, one is all it takes.

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Jim's journey to find breakfast in South Haven

By James Windell

On a recent Wednesday morning, I decided I wanted to go to a restaurant and enjoy a breakfast cooked by someone else – preferably a cook or chef. Since I live in South Haven, a vacation mecca, I knew there would be multiple options from which to choose – even though the Golden Brown Bakery closed last year and it was a downtown destination for baked goods and breakfast.

My first thought was to go to The Lodge on Blue Star Highway since it's a restaurant known for its great food and as a place where the "locals eat." I checked their hours online before I left and discovered they never open before 11:00 am. Then, I thought about Dave's Landing, also on Blue Star Highway, but I remembered that they are always closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

But I had a backup plan. I knew I could count on breakfast at Six Chicks at 364 Broadway. Driving to Six Chicks, I forgot that the Farmer's Market was open in downtown South Haven on Wednesday and that would make parking an adventure. However, I was able to locate a parking space a block away and it was an easy walk the bright yellow restaurant.

As I approached the front door, I noted several people sitting on benches outside, but thought it was a bright, sunny morning so why not? I knew from previous experience that Six Chicks has an extensive breakfast menu. Confidently opening the door, I couldn't really step inside because the line was backed up to within six inches of the door. That's when I had to admit that this was July, the population of tourist-friendly South Haven tends to at least quadruple in the summertime, yet I wasn't really up for waiting an hour to get a table. Surely there were other options.

Strolling back to my Honda, I remembered that Bunde's Bakery served breakfast. All I had to do was drive the few blocks up to North Shore Drive. That sounded like a brilliant idea. It was an easy drive through downtown South Haven up Dyckman Drive to North Shore Drive. As luck would have it, there was a parking spot directly in front of Bunde's. Jumping out of the car, I didn't see any lights on. Then I noticed the sign. "Closed" it said. Another sign informed me that they're only open Thursday through Sunday.

I did a U-turn on North Shore Drive and went back to Dyckman and up to Broadway. The traffic was backed up on Dyckman, apparently because the bridge was opened to let some sailboats through and I waited patiently for the traffic to clear so I could get to Broadway. As I drove slowly back up Broadway, I saw two possibilities – Bean Box Coffee and Phoenix Street on Broadway. I couldn't easily make a left into the strip mall where Bean Box Coffee was located so I kept going. But, alas, Phoenix on Broadway was closed on Wednesday.

But by this time it was after 10:30 am and I was not ready to suffer another disappointment. So, I decided to go home and toast some bread for my breakfast.

However, this experience only made me more determined. The next morning, before I ventured out, I made a list of possible places to get breakfast. This time, I told myself, I was going to find a place for breakfast!

Heading out again, I ignored Six Chicks, but I had heard about Blinkers in Bangor and drove east on M-43. After driving for 15 minutes, I found that not only was Blinkers open but there was no waiting. The sign out in front suggested that this is where locals eat. That sounded promising.

I ordered an omelette with toast. When it arrived, it was hot and my omelette was filled with fresh vegetables. And it was extremely tasty. Before I left, I talked to the owner, Kristy Pobuva-Nutting. She said she bought the restaurant 16 years ago and redid the interior. This was evident because it was clean and neat, bright and sunny inside.

"We try to be consistent in terms of our food," Pobuva-Nutting said as she pointed out some breakfast favorites of her customers. "One of the things I'm proud of," she said, "is that the staff I hired when I first opened are still here. So, you'll see the same wait staff every time you come in."

A customer said that if you went to a restaurant in South Haven and waited in line for a table, "You could drive out here and be seated immediately."

A few days later, I walked around downtown to see if there were any breakfast options. Investigating on both sides of Phoenix Street, I learned that none of the restaurants, such as Tello's, Clementine's, Taste and Kitchen 527 were open for breakfast. So, with the closing of Golden Café last year, what was left?

The only possibilities were the downtown coffee shops. However, none of them served breakfast. Water Edge Coffee serves no food, Cookies on Call opens at 10:00 am, but only has cookies and some baked goods. Flying Saucer Coffee opens at 7:00 am and has an array of muffins and cookies. That's it downtown.

That left three possible destinations: Dave's Landing, Bean Box Coffee and Phoenix on Broadway. Those would have to wait for another day.

Dave's Landing is open Thursday through Tuesday, so I dropped in there one Tuesday morning. Located at 05110 Blue Star Highway, their little blue building stands alone and it's easily missed if you aren't looking for it. But that would be a mistake.

Stephanie Troutman opened her little restaurant, that's basically only open for breakfast 7:00 am to 1:00 pm, four years ago. She says she started the restaurant in honor of her father, David Lee, who was a firefighter. She says that her father always was impressed with her cooking and she says that the "only time I ever listened to my dad was when I opened this diner, which I named after him." It has a steady stream of customers and on weekend mornings, the chances are you will have a wait a few minutes for a table.

However, they have a counter which seats three people. On the Tuesday morning I went there, one of Dave's Landing's regulars was seated next to me at the counter. "I come here three or four mornings a week," the man said while sipping hot coffee. "I couldn't begin to make breakfast this good at home," he said. He added that the omelettes are "amazing."

On another day, a Thursday, it was time to go to Bunde's Bakery and Café, at 89 North Shore. Trying to find a parking space was a bit trickier on a Thursday when Bunde's Bakery and Café was open. At 9:00 am, there were people sitting at all of the outdoor tables and the line was out the door and down the sidewalk. I cut in front of a man with a baby carriage and ducked inside to check the place out and grab a menu. The inside was crowded with customers and I found they had only three breakfast items. I talked to a customer in line and learned that The Biltmore was a croissant sandwich that was a customer favorite, and that the Quiche Lorraine was popular, too. The third breakfast item is called A Light Affair and it pairs a Mediterranean style yogurt with Bunde's Roasted Almond Pecan Granola and fresh blueberries. All three sounded yummy, but, again, I was not up to a long wait.

As I went back to Broadway, I stopped at Bean Box Coffee at 225 Broadway. A tiny but attractive interior was inviting. Most of the five tables inside were taken and I looked around for breakfast choices. In a cooler were some yogurts, there were muffins on the counter, and a sign advertised their fresh Breakfast Sandwich. I ordered that and enjoyed a sandwich between two slices of English muffin with a tasty egg and sausage concoction. The one coffee house in town with an actual fresh breakfast sandwich. The good thing about Bean Box Coffee is they open at 7:00 am Monday through Friday and at 8:00 am on Saturday.

A few doors south on Broadway is Phoenix on Broadway, a restaurant that is open every day except Wednesday at 7:00 am. It's an established South Haven restaurant that's been around since 2001. Originally on Phoenix Street downtown, they moved to Broadway two years ago.

Phoenix on Broadway features an array of breakfast specials, although I was impressed with their Eggs Benedict choices – especially their Bacon Sliced Lox Benedict. I noticed as I sat at their counter with seating for up to 15 people that it was a family friendly restaurant and lots of children were there with their parents.

That left only one other breakfast choice -- Café Julia at 561 Huron Street. Open from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Friday through Sunday, the restaurant is a staple for meeting others for breakfast or lunch. There are just five items on the menu for breakfast and all tend to be of the sandwich or toast variety. But all are tasty. There are plenty of pastries to tempt you, too.

I hope reading about my search for breakfast in South Haven and its environs will help you avoid frustration. You just need to plan ahead so that you can avoid a long wait and you get the kind of breakfast you are craving.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MAGA movement, Young's letter offer false claims

To: Editor

If Trump's political career and the MAGA movement serve no other valuable purpose (on another day I would argue that neither has served any valuable purpose so far) I have learned about the psychology term "projection". Basically, projection is "a defense mechanism where a person unconsciously attributes their own unacceptable thoughts, feelings, or traits to someone else". It is exemplified regularly by the hypocrisy of the Trump administration, the GOP in general, and John Young's recent letter to this newspaper. In it he includes many unsubstantiated claims regarding the Democratic Party which, upon examination, are actually descriptions of the Republican Party. Here are two examples:

He claims that Democrats are "...intentionally misrepresenting our nation as a democracy rather than the republic which it is." While most Americans use the terms "democracy" and "republic" interchangeably, there are subtle differences. In a pure democracy, or even a representative democracy, the majority rules. There are few, if any, protections for individual rights. In a republic, the majority rules, but its actions are constrained by a governing document, such as our Constitution. However, it is the Republican Trump administration that claims that, as in a pure democracy, their electoral "mandate" authorizes them to do whatever they want, unconstrained by our Constitution. They continue to:

Declare the birthright citizenship provision of the 14th Amendment to be invalid.

Usurp the Article 1 powers of the legislative branch to determine how American tax dollars are spent.

Defy the authority of the courts.

Apprehend, detain, and deport residents without allowing them the right to due process guaranteed to everyone by the 5th and 14th Amendments.

Use the power of the federal government to coerce colleges and law firms to change their policies to meet his demands.

Use the power of the federal government to punish and/or coerce media companies that do not support Trump in violation of their 1st Amendment rights – CBS, NPR, PBS.

Use the presidency to enrich Trump and his family in violation of the emoluments clause.

He claims that Democrats are "...promoting, condoning, and even participating in illegal activities including violence, destruction of property, murder, and even assassination" (Pause for laughter).

The man they elected President was convicted on 34 state felony counts. His election prevented trials on more than 40 additional federal felony charges.

Their president pardoned hundreds of people who confessed to or were convicted at trial for the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 which caused $2.7 million of damage to the Capitol, resulted in injuries to approximately 140 police officers, and led to the deaths of 5 other officers and 1 insurrectionist.

The young man killed by Secret Service agents during his alleged attempt to assassinate candidate Trump at a campaign event in Pennsylvania came from a Republican home.

The Republican-controlled U.S. Congress adjourned early for its August recess to avoid voting on a resolution to release the files associated with alleged pedophile Jeffery Epstein and convicted pedophile Ghislaine Maxwell. The Epstein files are reported to contain Trump's name multiple times as Epstein and Trump were best friends for many years. Apparently, the Republican Party's "large tent", as Mr. Young calls it, now includes pedophiles and their clients. I don't know if Trump actually engaged in sex with children, but he certainly knew what Epstein and Maxwell were doing. Do you have any pedophile friends that you are still protecting? I don't.

Tim Martin – Decatur Township

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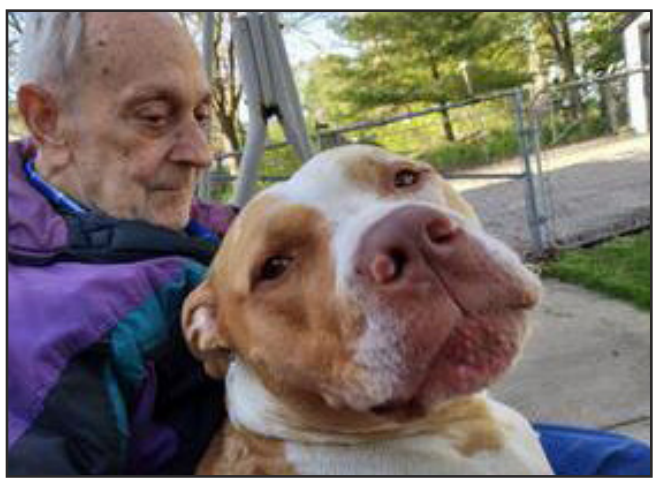
OBITUARIES

Steven L. Deal



DEAL, Steven L.
Paw Paw, MI
Age 82, died at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo following a long illness.

Steven was born on April 14, 1943 in Paw Paw, the son of Freeman and Bessie (Matthews) Deal. He retired from Checker Motor Company in 2004 after 40+ years of service as an inspector. Steven was preceded in death by 3 brothers: Charlie, Ben and Don. Members of his family include his wife of 61 years, Lucy Deal; 2 children: Tina (Ricky) Phillips and Dawn Grandy (Deal); and 2 grandchildren: Brandon and Joshua. Burial will take place Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 2:30PM at Wildey Cemetery in Paw Paw. Celebrate Steven's life online by sharing your favorite stories and photos on his dedicated webpage at BetzlerLifeStory.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Raymond Edward Burza

Raymond Edward Burza 97, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully early Wednesday morning, July 23, 2025, at White Oaks Assisted Living, Lawton. He was born May 25, 1928, in Vandalia, Michigan, the son of Wojciech George Burza and Mary (Hillburger) Burza.

Raymond was a member of St. Jude's Catholic Church, Gobles, and Saint Mary Catholic Church, Paw Paw. He also dedicated his time volunteering for the American Legion McGowan-Johnson Post 68 Paw Paw, The Gobles American Legion Post and the Paw Paw Knights of Columbus. He loved his community and serving when he could.

Ray loved working outdoors and tinkering, bowling with friends and traveling around the globe to see new places. Ray and his wife, Shirley, enjoyed square dancing for years.

Above all else, Ray was a loving father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. His kind soul was an inspiration to all he leaves behind and he will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his daughters, Julie (Chet) Boothby and Cheryl (Rick) Kroeg; son, Charles Burza; nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and siblings, Loretta (Edgar) Nickols, Virginia (Lewis) Williams and Janet (Tony) Weber, along with many nieces and nephews.

Raymond was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Shirley (Hoger) Burza on March 1, 2021; son, Ray (Cristy) Burza; and siblings, Donald Burza, Frieda Knawa, Helen Cosby, Isadore Burza, Chester Burza, Frank Burza, Olga Smith and Evelyn Burza.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, Aug. 18, at Saint Mary Catholic Church, 209 N. Brown St., Paw Paw, with the Rev. Fr. Robert F. Creagan officiating. Raymond and his wife, Shirley, will be laid to rest at Saint Mary Cemetery immediately following.

Memorial contributions in memory of Raymond may be directed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Saint Mary Catholic Church, Wounded Warriors Project or Centrica Care Navigators.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Jeffrey Ridley Glindmeyer

Jeffrey Ridley Glindmeyer, EDD

Jeffrey Ridley Glindmeyer, EDD, 81, of Lawrence, passed away peacefully, Sunday night, July 27, 2025, at his home in Lawrence. He was born Oct. 27, 1943, in Covington, Kentucky, the son of James Randall Glindmeyer and Edna May (Clifford) Glindmeyer.

Jeffrey is survived by his beloved wife, Bette (Buss) Glindmeyer; and grandchildren, Klay, Brianna, Tyler and Lauren.

In accordance with Jeffrey's wishes, cremation has taken place and no public services will be held at this time.

Memorial contributions in memory of Jeffrey may be directed to the Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky.

County roadways to undergo brush, invasive species management

LAWRENCE - The Van Buren County Road Commission has announced that herbicide vegetation control services will be conducted along various county road rights-of-way to manage brush and invasive species.

Brush Control Services

The Daltons, a licensed commercial applicator based in North Webster, Indiana, has been contracted to perform custom herbicide applications to control brush along roadsides. Maintaining clear roadsides is essential for ensuring safe visibility for drivers. For more information about the herbicides being used, please contact Brad Bolinger at The Daltons: (574) 267-7511.

Invasive Species Management

In partnership with the Van Buren County Conservation District, the Road Commission is also targeting invasive species such as phragmites and Japanese knotweed. These treatments help prevent the spread of invasive plants, which can be exacerbated by routine road maintenance. For details about the invasive species treatment program, contact Abbie Bristol, SWxSW Corner CISMA Strike Team Coordinator, at (269) 633-9058.

Spray Locations and Schedule

Spraying will occur in areas identified for invasive species treatment, as well as at intersections and other selected locations for brush control. Excluded areas include:

· Platted or urban areas (i.e., NOT in subdivisions)

· Orchards and grape vineyards

·Certified organic farms registered on the Michigan Specialty Crop Site Registry (Drift-Watch)

Applications are scheduled to begin around August 18th and will continue until the first hard frost of the season.

Opt-Out Option for Property Owners

Property owners who wish to opt out of the brush spray program may do so by submitting an application and agreeing to maintain the roadside area themselves. This includes cutting all weeds, brush, and low-hanging limbs within 15 feet of the road surface and 15 feet above it. To request an opt-out application form, visit www.vbcrc.org/vegetationmaintenance or call the Road Commission at (269) 674-8011.

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SPORTS

Verseput leads SH softball

Molly Verseput was a three-sport athlete at South Haven.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Molly Verseput had many reasons to enjoy her senior season with South Haven softball.

South Haven was 10-0 in the SAC Lakeshore and Verseput earned all-conference honors.

Division.

"This year, winning the districts was definitely a big highlight for us," Verseput said. "The last time they won it was 2015. So it had been awhile. So winning it this time was pretty cool. (The key) was working well together. I don't think we had any errors in that game."

Verseput was the winning pitcher in district title.

"Coloma was definitely a highlight," Verseput said. "It was a conference game so that was a big deal. We won 9-0 and 18-0. They only had two hits in each game."

Her offspeed was a good weapon, "and putting ball where I wanted to put it," Verseput said, adding her changeup was her best pitch. "I played a lot during the summer and worked hard over the fall. I definitely got a little better."

Verseput has been a pitcher for at least six years. It was her best year in the circle. If she wasn't pitching, she played first base.

Verseput's hitting "was not as good as last year was still pretty good. The key is being patient and waiting for a good pitch and not trying to do too much just trying to get my bat on the ball."

A monumental hit for Verseput was a home run vs. Gull Lake, her only roundtrip per.

Verseput also played basketball and volleyball said softball was probably her favorite sport.

She was all-conference in all three sports and all-region in volleyball and all-district in softball. She's going to Hope College to play softball.

"Think it will be fun," Verseput said, adding that from South Haven "I will miss my coaches and my team.

Gobles runner set for huge junior season

Libby Smith will be in her junior season for Gobles.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Libby Smith has had two outstanding running seasons under her belt at Gobles and is looking forward to being a junior this fall cross country season.

Her sophomore spring track season was sensational.

"My team performed very well this season, winning many invitationals as well as our SAC conference championships, and placing second at regionals," Smith said. "This season, I performed great. I won most invitationals in the 1,600s well as the 3,200. I am now a two-time SAC 1,600 and 3200 champion as well as a two-time regional 3,200-meter champion.

"I also early qualified for state in both of those races. My 4x800 team came in fifth at state. I came in seventh in the 1,600 and third in the 3,200. I also qualified for the champions of champions race in the 3200 at MITCA where I got key PR of an 11:02 and I ran the 1,600 in the up and coming race, setting another PR with a 5:14."

Smith feels she improved her speed throughout the season and also her positivity.

"I found myself fighting my brain a lot during races and it was very hard to not fight the urge to slow down my run at what felt like a good and easy pace," Smith said. "I am still working on my mental toughness but I do feel that it improved this season. I was one of my team's distance runners and the only one who willingly ran the 3,200 at each meet. My role is the same as last year. I ran the 3,200 at every meet last year too.

"My fundamental strengths as a perfomer are my start of races. I feel like I have a great start to my races and that gets me out strong and sets up the rest of my race. My motivation is also one of my strengths. I work really hard to get fast and strong by working on speed, strength, training and more."

Smith added: "I worked on getting better at my speed throughout the race. Breaking through my 'black hole' pace. I would constantly hit a 1:30 per lap and get stuck in that. By the end of next season, I was running 1:28s and 1:27s as my new black hole that I can't wait to break next year. To get my times down, I really focused on surging at certain points on the track.

"This season, one of my most memorable moments was when our foreign exchange student from Italy ran the mile at the Centerville Invite. She missed the calls to get checked in and I even texted her to come get checked in. We got lined up at the start line and ready for the gun to go off then she comes during down the track. My coach, Mr. Wood was trying to reason with the starters to let her run and she did get in. She smiled the whole time and when we got done I asked her what she was doing and I don't remember what she said but I later found out from one of the other girls she was putting lotion on the infield. That made me laugh and I will remember that forever."

Highlights for Smith included winning dual meets, racing in the Don Lukens Invitational which featured many Division 1 teams, winning the Centreville and Gobles Little Guys Invitational, taking the SAC title and coming in second at regionals.

"I didn't quite meet my expectations this year," Smith said. "I really wanted to break 11 minutes in the 3,200 and I did come really close but was two seconds away. I also didn't start the season how I wanted to, coming off of paella tendinitis and not able being to train my best during the winter but I still did great.

"My team also didn't do quite so well as we had hoped. We did great at many of the invites and at the SAC championships. One of our goals was to win regionals and we came in second. We also had a big goal of winning team state and fell short as we were missing people. Everyone is an important part of the team to win."

Now it's time for cross country.

"I love both of my sports but I do prefer cross country over track," Smith said. "I like only having to focus on one race. I also love the distance of a 5K and that I don't have to run in a bunch of circles. Now that my season has ended, I have been working on my summer training for cross country. I'm doing a few summer races as well as making sure I do long runs, easy runs, recovery runs and speed workouts. I am also lifting during the week and bike or swing the days that I don't run."

Lawton girl has busy summer of basketball

McKenzee Terpstra has played a lot off summer basketball for Lawton.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — McKenzee Terpstra had a busy summer for Lawton basketball She played in various summer tournament for her travel team. She was spending four to five days a week in basketball.

"I'm trying overall trying to be a better overall player and trying to be a better team player," she said. "I'm trying to become a leader."

Terpstra is usually a guard.

"I've been trying to get more consistent in my shots," she said. "I'm focusing on that."

Terpstra will be a senior for the 2025-26 season for Lawton. She's played about the same amount of summer ball each year.

"It's important," she said. "If you dot do anything, then you're falling behind."

Several other Lawton girls plays play year round.

This will be Terpstra's fourth varsity season.

Basketball is her only sport and she's been playing it since the second grade.

"I got serious around my sixth grade year," Terpstra said. "We only lost two seniors and everyone else is coming back."

Gia Bridges came off the bench last year and could be a starter this year, Terpstra noted.

Lawrence volleyball, South Haven golf coaches preparing for season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Anita Robles is volleyball coach at Lawrence and is getting excited for the season.

"On Aug. 11, we will be setting up and sending reminders for tryouts," Robles said. "The week of Aug. 11th we will host tryouts for our team testing their skill level for placement on the team. Our first several days will be testing skill level and creating a team bond with the girls.

"We should have a good amount of girls but most will be lower classmen. We do have a tournament on Aug. 21st.

I am very happy that a lot of our underclassmen have been consistently showing up.

"This has been the biggest group we've gotten throughout the summer in years. I really wish more of the upperclassmen could've attended."

South Haven Girls Golf

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven golf coach Barry Shanley has announced plans for the first week of practice. "Monday we will hand-out equipment; team bags, shirts, clubs, marked practice balls for drills," he said. "Then we will break off into 3 teams who will rotate every half hour on the range with me, on the chipping green with short game coach Anton Badenhorst and on the putting green with JV coach Pat Fitton.

"We have not had an athletic director until last Friday...so we are catching-up on a schedule," Shanley said. "We do not have tryouts because I have never cut a player in my 46 seasons so far as a head coach. Golf is a lifetime sport which we want to make fun so the players will learn and play their whole lives.

"The remaining practice days the first week will be divided between playing and more drills on HawksHead's tremendous practice facilities. We won't know for sure how many players will be out for golf until opening day, but we are hoping for an ideal 12 or 14 girls, and may have a teamful of middle school players."

South Haven golfers have had a busy schedule.

"I have a summer junior golf tour, with about 100 golfers from southwest Michigan. We have 10 18-hole events on great courses and several of my South Haven players competed, which is a positive sign," Shanley said. "South Haven should have another successful season with a great mix of veteran players and several promising newcomers. We love to also see brand new players who will learn to be competitive much earlier than they probably expect."

Hurd has strong season for Covert track

By John Raffel
Correspondent

COVERT — Covert's girls track and field team enjoyed strong performances from various athletes this season including Nevaeh Hurd who, in the BCS championships, was fourth in the 200 meters with a personal record of 29.18 seconds.

Hurd was also eighth in a meet at Bangor High School with Fennville, Buchanan, Coloma and Decatur in 29.99 seconds and 29.86 seconds for 10th place in the regionals for Division 4 at New Buffalo.

She also ran the 400 meters and had a personal record of 14.18 seconds at the BCS championship for fourth place and an 11th-place finish at the regionals in New Buffalo of 14.46 seconds.

Hurd also ran the 100-meter hurdles and placed ninth in 22.55 seconds for a personal record in a multi-team meet at Bangor. She was on the 4x100 relay team with Briana Gallegos, Kyma'rae Vaughn, Keyren Ruiz which was fifth in 59.63 seconds on a multi-team meet at Bangor.

In the 300-meter hurdles in the BCS meet, Herandy Hernandez was fourth 1:02.15 as a personal record for fourth and Brian Gallegos was fifth in 1:02.26.

South Haven shortstop closes unique career

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Charlie Morse has graduated from South Haven sports and had a solid baseball season in 2025.

"We won conference for the first time in a long time," he said. "That was pretty cool. Really the highlight was having a great group of guys this year. Practice was a lot more fun than it has been. Morale was very good. That made the season a whole lot more fun."

The key to winning the league was "we had good pitching and hit the ball pretty consistently most of the season," Morse said. "That was a huge part of it. The defense was on an off but the hitting and pitching was always consistent."

Morse played middle infield, primarily shortstop.

"You have to have a good glove to play over there," he said. "You have to be able to read the ball off the bat and have an internal clock which tells you how to make a certain way to get this guy out, and understanding the runner. It's a mental game that you have to be able to play over there."

Morse started off the season as a pitcher. who was basically a closer. "As the season went on I started," he said. "I had a couple of good games this year. The one that sticks out was the game against Coloma this year. I was pitching the second game. We were trying to get the games done in a hurry because we were losing daylight. I went out there the last inning and threw a warmup pitch and was trying to get the ball back from the catcher as quick as possible.

"I had a good season at the plate. I batted .400 most of the year. The end of the year I was hitting the ball at people. I may have ended in the .300s. I was a good hitter fundamentally my sophomore year. This year I played looser and that made it easier to be aggressive at the plate."

Morse had a bases-clearing double against Coloma as a big moment.

For the postseason, Morse got his second all-conference for baseball and all-district and all region academic.

Morse was also a tennis player and skier. He indicated tennis was probably his favorite sport. "I started as a sophomore but wish I had done it a little sooner. I was singles one my last two years," he said. "It was a lot of fun."

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Paw Paw football ready to kick off

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's football team is ready to kick off the season with the first day of practices on Aug. 11.

"We will start at 8 a.m.," coach Dennis Strey said. "Lots of individual position work. We will begin the installation of offense and defense and continue with install and special teams. It's full pads on Friday morning and we have a team pool party at Coach Newells on Friday after practice.

"Each day of practice builds on what we accomplished in the summer and our goal is to take each opportunity and build on the previous day."

It's anticipated numbers total of 30 for varsity and both a freshman and JV team.

Paw Paw's scrimmage is set for Thursday the 21st at Wayland starting at 7 p.m.

"This group has worked very hard this off season beginning with morning workouts and great attendance this summer," Strey said. "They have made gains in the weight room and with speed and quickness. They have done a good job holding each other accountable and competing with one another."

The season starts at home on Aug. 28 against Big Rapids.

Paw Paw cross country

Paw Paw men's and women's cross country team is coached by Christian Depierre and will start out on Aug. 11 with handing out paper work, running, conditioning, and talking about goals for the season.

Running, conditioning and team bonding will be emphasized the first week of practice.

"We will have around nine boys and 12 girls," Depierre said. "The first meet is Friday, Nile's Invite. Both teams trained really hard this summer, and we ae looking to improve our conference standings as wells as regionals for both teams."

Rams outfielder reflects on strong season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Isaac Chalupa is looking forward to his senior season at South Haven. He was a junior this past season for his third varsity year.

"From the very beginning, we were off to a hot start," Chalupa said. "With our team chemistry all together, it led us to our first conference championship in over 13 years. I felt that was a big accomplishment and that meant a lot to us. We tried to finish the season strong.

"It was mainly strong pitching."

Chalupa was an outfielder for the Rams.

"I had a good arm so I could get it into the field," he said. "My hitting was a very strong part for me. I was third in the batting order. (Hitting) is what made us very successful."

Chalupa batted above .400.

A memorable hit was his only home run of the season, against Martin.

"I remember it was a fastball right down the middle," he said. "I didn't think it was going go oner. It was a nice line drive but kept carrying in went over the fence."

A win against Allegan was sweet, Chalupa said, because it confirmed the conference title for South Haven.

Compared to last year, "I felt extremely more comfortable batting," Chalupa said. "I was maybe more aggressive than I have been in the past, for sure. I was a lot more comfortable to make things happen without getting injuries."

He's looking forward to 2026.

"We graduate five seniors but a lot of speed is back… hitting, that's all coming back," he said. "It will be exciting."

Chalupa also plays basketball and soccer.

"I would have to say my hitting sticks out from other sports," he said. "For athleticism all the way around it's been helpful in other sports too."

In soccer, Chalupa is a center mid and focuses on defense. He's a forward in basketball and plays travel basketball.

"It will be exciting for basketball," he said. "We went to a Hope College camp and we were very successful. We have a well rounded team."

South Haven runners getting ready

By John Raffel
Correspondence

SOUTH HAVEN — Lindsay DeLorme is head coach for South Haven Cross Country and Head Distance Coach for South Haven track and field and will open cross country practice on Monday.

She said practice will be at Kid's Corner 7:30-8:45 a.m. on Monday and we will meet each day at that time to practice.The location will change each day.

"Practice will consist of dynamics, strength, mobility, core, and running. I am expecting 15-20 student athletes total."

The ultimate goal will be to have runners qualify for the state finals in November at the Michigan International Speedway near Brooklyn, Mich.

"We have two invitationals in August," DeLorme said. "The first one will be in St. Joe on Aug. 19. The second will be the Rustbuster Invitational on August 27, which we host at Warner Camp in Grand Junction. I currently have around 29 Southwest Michigan schools signed up and the numbers for that are around 800 runners from middle school to high school.

"I am very proud of the team's summer training. We have been conditioning together since mid-June and we are very excited for our upcoming season."

Smith leads the way for Covert boys track

By John Raffel
Correspondent

COVERT — Demarcus Smith was a sophomore sprinter for Covert's track and field team this past season and led the way in various events.

Smith had a personal record of 29.95 seconds in the 200 meters this season at the St. Joe/Benton Harbor Rotary meet. He had BCS Jamboree times of 31.47, 31.02, and 30.47.

At the BCS championship, Smith had a time of 32.85. He cut it to 30.21 seconds at the Region 34 Division 4 meet at New Buffalo.

Smith also ran the 400 meters. He had times of 1:10.99 at the BCS jamboree and 1:05.00 at the regional,

Smith was also on the 4x100 relay team with Sebastian Reyes, Angel Delgado Giovanne Aviles-Gomez and Santiago Ruiz. They had times of 55.77, 58.38, 57.60 and 55.73 and also had a fifth-place finish in the BCS championship

Smith was also on a 4x200 relay tie Reyes, Ruiz and Delgado which was eighth in a meet at Bangor.

In BCS meet action, Delgado was sixth in the 400 meters in 1:02.32.

Lawton volleyball starts tryouts on Aug. 11

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Lawton coach Kristin Burk has announced Aug. 11 will be the first day of tryouts for volleyball

Mondays is also the day when other area sports teams begin practices.

"We will continue tryouts through Aug. 12 and then have practices with prospective teams," Burk said. "Our first weeks of practice at the varsity level for Lawton, will be two hours per day focusing on strengths and chemistry. "We will have our first tournament at Home on August 23. So, we will need to build our hitters/ blockers to get ready for our opponents."

At the varsity level for Lawton, we will take 12-to-13 players for the 2025 season, as well as, we will take those same numbers for our JV squad.

"Many of our scrimmages took place over the summer, so it will be dialing in on skills and ownership in each player's position," Burk said. "We started the summer workouts with lots of participation, but numbers did dwindle as the summer moved on.

Overall, Lawton will have to put in work to compete this year. Seniors have to do their part and rise if they want it to happen for their year. We can't stop and have to have the grit to pursue every challenge that presents itself. TIME, EFFORT and ENERGY have to be the philosophy this year."

Area Church Services

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Len Schoenherr
668-2811 • www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
(Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

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COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139 • www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY
Worship @10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

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FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY
Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search:
"Buddy Turner"

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 11am Sundays
in person or online at -
www.pawpawpres.com or
www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY
Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook &
YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-7727
Pastor Dan Phillips
Sunday Service at 9:30 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream
worship

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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O.Box 307, Paw Paw, MI 49079
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

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ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
657-4459
SATURDAY Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY MASSES - 9AM & 11AM
Holy days & Daily Masses
Consult Bulletin

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy., Bilingual
Pastors Maggie and Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday:
Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico |
Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514/ (269) 993-6727

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

••••

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Pastor Adam Potgiesser
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www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

••••

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. John Tran.
668-3312
SUNDAY - 9:45AM

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Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
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Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study &
Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://
www.decaturbible.org

••••

Decatur New Hope Community Church
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY • Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

MATTAWAN

Calvary Community Church
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240 • www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.
church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open
Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.•

•••

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
SUNDAYS AT 10:25 A.M

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. John Tran
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM
(Saturday Mass time remains at 4:00 PM)

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40 • 269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
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Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan Probate Court Van buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1107-DE
Estate of RICHARD NORMAN STOLL
Date of Birth: August 20, 1946
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Richard Norman Stoll, died August 4, 2024 (8/4/2025)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sandra E. Stoll personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
July 31,2025
Attorney

Personal Representative
Sandra E. Stoll
59478 46th St., Lawrence, MI 49064
269-267-8004 or 209-674-8522

State of Michigan Probate Court Van buren County
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2025-1116-DE
Estate of JEAN M. HEATH
Date of Birth: February 7,1932
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jean M. Heath, died October 27, 2024(10/27.2024)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Janice H. Atkenson personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
August 1,2025
Attorney
Garrett T. McNally (P55569)
120 West Main, P.O. Box 187
Marcellus, MI 49067
269/646-5511
Personal Representative
Janice H. Atkenson
12203 S. 87th Avenue
Palos Park, IL 60464
708/269-3603

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: JAMIE HANNAR; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 7/24/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-009166; INSURER: FNMA
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on AUGUST 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jamie Hannar, an unmarried woman, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated June 26, 2008 and recorded June 30, 2008 in Liber 1504, Page 243 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on July 11, 2011, in Liber 1553, Page 184, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank N.A. as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five and 9/100 Dollars ($121,965.09).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on AUGUST 21, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Porter, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Beginning at a point 20 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 15, Town 4 North, Range 13 West; thence West 10 rods; thence South 20 rods; thence East 10 rods; thence North 20 rods to beginning.
81202 County Road 652, Lawton, Michigan 49065
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: July 24, 2025
File No. 25-009166
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(07-24)(08-14)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: WILLIAM ENGEL; ATTY: TEAM X; 1ST PUB: 7/24/2025; ATTY FILE #: 040244F08; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on August 21, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): William Engel, a single man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Indenture Trustee, successor in interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee for SASCO Mortgage Loan Trust 2004-GEL3
Date of Mortgage: April 23, 2004
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 30, 2004
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $88,190.20
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The Easterly 550 feet of the following: that part of the Northwest quarter of Section 18, Town 3 South, Range 13 West described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 18, Town 3 South, Range 13 West, thence South 00 degree 13 minutes 51 seconds West, 202.09 feet along the East line of the Northeast quarter of said Section 18 to the center line of Highway I-94; thence South 60 degrees 28 minutes 4 seconds West, 3688.30 feet; thence South 172.15 to the Southerly right of way line of I-94 and the place of beginning of this description thence continuing South in the center of a road described in Liber 148 of Deeds on Page 134 to a point which is East of a point on the West Section line of said Section 18 which point is 40.35 chains (2663.10 feet) North to the Southwest corner of Section 18; thence West to the Southerly right of way line of said I-94; thence Northeasterly along said Southerly right of way to Place of Beginning.
Common street address (if any): 59443 S Lagrave St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9272
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 24, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1567326
(07-24)(08-14)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Steven P Koenig; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 7/31/2025; Atty File #: 20-000386-2; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on August 28, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Steven P. Koenig, AKA Steven Koenig, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 1, 2004 Recorded on June 9, 2004, Liber 1415, on Page 570, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Eight and 45/100 Dollars ($40,268.45) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Commencing at a point found by starting at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West. Thence Easterly on the Section line 99 rods, thence South parallel with the West line of said Section 2814 feet, thence South 33 degrees 48` West 356 feet to the point of beginning of this description, thence continuing South 33 degrees 48` West 60 feet, thence South 52 degrees 8` East to Cedar Lake, thence Northeasterly along said Lake to a point which is South 51 degrees 52` East from said point of beginning, thence North 51 degrees 52` West to said point of beginning. Also, a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress in common with others beginning at a point found by commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 28, Town 4 South, Range 13 West; thence Easterly on the North line of said Section, 99 rods; thence South parallel with the West line of said Section, 2814 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 48` West 536 feet; thence North 52 degrees 34` West 33.07 feet; thence North 33 degrees 48` East 464.57 feet; thence North parallel with the West line of said Section to the centerline of Shaw Road; thence Easterly along said centerline to a point 99 rods Easterly of the West line of said Section 28; thence South to said point of beginning. Commonly known as 29383 Shaw Rd, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3 Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1568194
(07-31)(08-21)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Linda Smith; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 8/7/2025; Atty File #: 378790F03; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Linda Smith, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Loans Structured Transaction Trust, Series 2021-2
Date of Mortgage: January 12, 2001
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 17, 2001
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $88,994.65
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Bloomingdale, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing 93 rods 15 feet North of the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 33, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof; Thence North 30 rods 5 feet; Thence Easterly to the North and South One Eighth line of said Southeast Quarter; Thence South on same 30 rods 5 feet; Thence Westerly to beginning
Common street address (if any): 22501 41st St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026-9759
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 7, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1568734
(08-07)(08-28)

Van Buren; Mtgr: RON CRAFT; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 8/7/2025; Atty File #: 25-002098-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 04, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): RON CRAFT and SUZANNE BURROWS-CRAFT, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 28, 2004 Recorded on May 11, 2004, Liber 1413, on Page 644, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Seven and 41/100 Dollars ($50,567.41) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF CASS STREET AT A POINT 465.00 FEET EAST OF THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE WEST, 102.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH, 86.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH MONROE STREET, 112.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF BLOCK 8, MONROE`S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BANGOR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 17, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 108 E Cass St, Bangor, MI 49013 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6 Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1568789
(08-07)(08-28)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Daltons Inc., its main office at 8857 N. Syracuse-Webster Rd., Syracuse, IN 46567, has been contracted by VanBuren Co Road Commission to perform custom chemical vegetation control maintenance services at designated **roadside** locations throughout the county.

In doing so, they will be broadcast applying the following EPA-registered materials: Alligare Triclopyr 3SL (Triclopyr) or Corteva Garlon 3A or Corteva Element 3A and Envu/Bayer Escort XP or Alligare MSM 60(Metsulfuron Methyl).

Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas until sprays have dried.

This application will be completed by certified applicators employed by The Daltons Inc., during the months of September and/or October.

Additional information may be requested by contacting David Mohler or Brad Bolinger at 574-267-7511.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MSHDA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE HOME REHAB PROJECT

The Village of Lawrence will conduct a public hearing on August 12, 2025 at 6:00PM at 157 N Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a MSHDA CDBG grant.

The Village of Lawrence proposes to use $472,000 CDBG funds for repairs and improvements to homes located within the Village and occupied by low and moderate-income homeowners to address health, safety and energy efficiency needs. The project will benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons. Zero persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting, contact the Village Clerk at office@lawrencemi.org or 269-674-8161 no later than 10:00AM on August 11, 2025. Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to the Village Clerk at 157 N Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the Village Clerk at least two business days before the meeting in writing at 157 N Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064 or by telephone at 269-674-8161.

Amy Cordes
Village Manager
The Village of Lawrence

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MSHDA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE CITY OF BANGOR HOME REHAB PROJECT

The City of Bangor will conduct a public hearing on August 18, 2025 at 7:00PM at 257 W Monroe St, Bangor, Michigan 49013 for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a MSHDA CDBG grant.

The City of Bangor proposes to use $400,000 CDBG funds for repairs and improvements to homes located within the City and occupied by low and moderate-income homeowners to address health, safety and energy efficiency needs. The project will benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons. Zero persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the proposed project during the above listed public hearing or in advance of the hearing in writing. To submit written comments in advance of the meeting, contact the City Clerk at clerk@cityofbangormi.gov or 269.427.5831 no later than 10:00AM on August 11, 2025. Alternatively, comments may be submitted in writing to the City Clerk at 257 W Monroe St, Bangor, Michigan 49013.

If you are disabled and require reasonable accommodation for this meeting, contact the City Clerk at least two business days before the meeting in writing at 257 W Monroe St, Bangor, Michigan 49013 or by telephone at 269.427.5831.

Justin Weber
City Manager
The City of Bangor

Lawrence DDA welcomes three new businesses

The Lawrence Downtown Development Authority (DDA) welcomed three new businesses to Lawrence on July 26. From left, Lawrence DDA member Dale Gribler and Lorraine Valk, owner of Sonlight Gifts, Rachel Ferrell, Gavin Winkel and Kevin Ferrell, Lawrence Community Cares, Donna Spenner, Lawrence Township Supervisor and Annette Crandall, Lawrenc Village Council member, and Steve Petersen, who welcomed Rain Bella Rose Tea. All three businesses received business incubator funds from the Lawrence DDA to help them for 18 months.
Photo courtesy/Lawrence DDA

Lawrence Residents open Lawrence Community Care

Lawrence residents Kevin Ferrell, PA-C, and his wife Rachel Ferrell announce the opening of Lawrence Community Care, an innovative medical office located at 119 N Paw Paw St in Lawrence. This new medical practice offers a unique approach to how area residents experience primary and urgent healthcare services.

Using the Direct Primary Care (DPC) model, LCC offers a refreshing alternative to the traditionally complex and overpriced insurance-based medical care. Lawrence Community Care, spearheaded by retired US Army CPT Kevin Ferrell, MSM PA-C and his spouse Mrs. Rachel Ferrell (Practice Manager), aims to bring back affordable, accessible, and personalized healthcare to the community they call home.

The practice celebrated its grand opening with a Health Fair on July 26th, which featured a funfilled health fair, a welcoming ceremony from the Lawrence Downtown Development Authority, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony with The Greater Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce. The event saw a strong turnout from community members, health and safety vendors, and area local leaders, all coming together to celebrate this new addition to the community.

For more information or to place an ad Call (269) 657-3072 or 657-5080 BEFORE MONDAY AT 5PM

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I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

The Van Buren County Treasurer will offer tax-reverted real estate at public auction online at **www.tax-sale.info.**

The first auction will be held on **August 27th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT.** Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website. Assistance is available for those without computer or internet access.

Incomplete or voided sales from the August 27th, 2025 auction, if any, will be re-offered on September 26th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT.

Unsold tax reverted real estate from either of the previous auctions, if any, will be re- offered on October 31st, 2025 in a sealed- bid auction. All bids must be placed by 7:00 pm EDT for this final sealed-bid auction.

Answers to common questions about the auction process and additional information can be found at **www.tax-sale.info/faq**

For more information and to view a list of the properties being offered, please visit **www.tax-sale.info** or call 1-800-259-7470.

Auction listings may also be available at the County Treasurer's office.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that The Shed Self Storage, phone (269) 200-2156, located at 72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065 will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at www.StorageAuctions.com. Auction will close on or after Wednesday August 27, 2025 at 10:00 am. The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold:
Paul Hatfield
David Howard

SMALL BOAT OR SHORE-BOUND SALMON FISHING

Author and Harv Woodard with a good fish just inside the mouth of the river

Feet planted tight to the floor, leaning hard into the side of the boat, three-to-five-foot rollers, and you are attempting to reel in a fish. This is not my idea of fun. Been there a few times. Fishing from a larger boat is tolerable, but not enjoyable. In a smaller boat, this is a case of nausea and agony.

Within a few weeks, anglers will have the opportunity to fish closer to the piers and even from a dock. Once the late summer run starts, anglers can double down and fish the local rivers or fish the drowned river mouths.

As the weather cools, salmon will concentrate near the river mouths. Many times, anglers will find pods of fish near the piers and out in fifty to seventy feet of water.

Depending on the year, this migration might start as early as mid-August or as late as the end of August or early September. This is a trolling bite, and not wanting to sound like an expert on this, let's just say it takes equipment that I no longer own.

Downriggers, lead core, copper, dipsey divers, and such are used in some form of combination. I still own dipsey divers and planner boards, and that's about it. Luckily for me, I have friends with the required equipment.

Once the fish move in closer, similar to the early season brown and coho jacks in April and May, then my equipment is more than adequate. We enjoy trolling planner boards with snap weights.

A combination of spoons and body baits such as the Husky Jerks, Thunder sticks, and Flatfish work well. Many times, we will add a strip of a sardine or smelt to the belly of a Flatfish.

Pier fishing from any of the piers connecting to Lake Michigan is fun. Only a minimal tackle is required, and something in the glow-in-the-dark patterns produces well.

There is something that I just love when casting a Little Cleo spoon. Counting the spoons down to a certain depth and varying the speed of the retrieve gets my blood going. You can feel the side-to-side wobble of the spoon.

Casting a Husky Jerk is another fine way to success. Adding a piece of glow tape to the side helps. In most cases, it pays to verify your receipt. Reel fast, then slow down. Reel slow and then crank it up. Reel and stop for a second or two. Mix it up and shy away from the old steady simple retrieve.

As the fish move into the drowned river mouths, such as White Lake, Muskegon Lake, and Lake Mac, it can be done via three methods. Trolling, vertical jigging, and casting Husky Jerks.

Many anglers troll downriggers with J-Plug style lures, flies, or spoons. The same techniques used in front of the piers can be used inside the drowned river lakes.

However, a growing trend and one that I enjoy is vertical jigging spoons. Hopkins Spoons are very popular. This is one of our favorites. Vertical jigging with your standard walleye tackle just might be the most exciting method of all time.

The strikes are vicious, and the battles are intense. Make sure that your reels have plenty of line because these fresh-run kings will make long runs, testing your drag.

Another favorite spoon is the Flutter Spoon. This is a Do-it-Mold spoon. Mention the battle and the strike on a spoon. This spoon falls erratically.

Depending on the depth of the water, kings will suspend or be nearly tight to the bottom.

Casting Husky Jerks smack dab in front of the river mouth, where the river just starts forming the lake, is crazy productive. Many times, this is a shallow water fishery with a depth of between five and ten feet of water. Try it, it works!

River anglers can fish for spawn, cast spoons, or body baits. Perhaps my favorite river fishing method would be casting spinners. Think of a Mepps or a Blue Fox. We make our own, and we use lots of orange-colored beads. Stop in at Bob's Gun and Tackle Shop for your late summer products.

JACK PAYNE

Payne is a member of OWAA (outdoor writers association of America). He is an avid outdoorsperson who enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking and cooking. This column will hopefully enhance your outdoor experiences. "While I may have some knowledge, I am very fortunate that I do know many true experts that share their knowledge with me," said Payne. "Together, hopefully we all can learn and experience more fun in the great outdoors."
Payne resides in southwest Michigan. His column will appear weekly in the Courier Leader/ Flashes.

STATE OF MICHIGAN • VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
ORDINANCE NO. 0728-2025
AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE KEEPING FOWL IN THE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

THE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN ORDAINS:

The Village of Mattawan adopts this Ordinance for the purpose of regulating the keeping of fowl within the Village. The Ordinance and all policies regarding the keeping of fowl within the village are consistent with the Generally Accepted Agriculture and Management Practices (GAAMP) for the care of farm animals as promulgated by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. All persons wishing to keep fowl within the Village shall adhere to the following:

1. The number of fowl allowed is based on zoning districts and as follows:
   a. HCBD, VGBD, HBD, LID, BPD, R3 and R4 – No Fowl Allowed
   b. R1 and R2 – 6 chickens only, no other fowl or roosters
   c. AG – 15 Fowl
2. Structures for keeping chickens must meet the following requirements and property owners must:
   a. Be located in the backyard of the applicant's property, defined as an imaginary line even with the rear wall of the residential structure extending away from the structure.
   b. Be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from any property line.
   c. Fowl should not be allowed in a residence, porch, or attached garage. Fowl must be confined in a house or coop in the backyard of the residence with a minimum of 2 square feet per bird. A fence enclosure that is a minimum of 4 feet in height must be installed that completely encloses the coop and any range yardage. The coop and fence should be built to keep dogs, cats, and wildlife from gaining entry.
3. Provide a container that protects feed from entry by rodents
4. Proper disposal of waste materials is required on a weekly basis.
5. Provide the minimum care of animals by:
   a. Cleaning the structure in which fowls are kept regularly
   b. The owner must feed and water the fowl daily.
   c. Injured or sick animals will be attended to properly
   d. Dead animals must be disposed of by the Michigan Bodies of Dead Animal Act, Act 239 of 1982, Amended Act No. 311, Public Acts of 2008

Violation and Penalties

Any owner, renter, possessor, or occupier of land within the Village of Mattawan, or any person in charge of such lands, who fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with the provisions outlined in this ordinance for their zoning district shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Such violations shall be deemed a public nuisance. Such individuals shall be subject to a penalty of a 90-day Misdemeanor, which prescribes a fine of up to $500 and 90 days in jail. Furthermore, each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Variance Requests

Should any resident want to apply for a variance from any portion of this ordinance, a special variance request application can be submitted for $50 or other amount determined by Village Council action. This variance request is reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and approval or denial will be given in writing to the requestor.

Validity and Severability

Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Repealer Clause

Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith arc hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective upon publication. Any owner, possessor, or occupier of land that is not in compliance at the time the ordinance becomes effective shall have 30 days after the ordinance becomes effective to become compliant with the provisions of this ordinance.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jolie Storm-Artis, Clerk of the Village of Mattawan, certify that at a regular meeting of the Village Council held on July 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Mattawan Village Hall, at which the following members were present: Begeman, Cole, Daniel, Gurley, McLean, Streeter, and Stuut

The Council, motioned by Daniel and supported by Stuut, enacted Ordinance #0728-2025 to become effective July 28, 2025, and to be published pursuant to the provisions of the Village Charter.

7 Ayes __0__ Abstentions 0 Nays

Jolie Storm-Artis — Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk
Donald Cole — Donald Cole, Council President
July 28, 2025

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